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COUNTRY: PRC

SUBJ: LI TIEYING SPEAKS AT TRADITIONAL MEDICINE CONGRESS

SOURCE: BEIJING XINHUA IN ENGLISH 1220 GMT 18 OCT 91

TEXT:

((TEXT)) BEIJING, OCTOBER 18 (XINHUA) -- THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE ROLE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE IN IMPROVING PEOPLE'S HEALTH, A SENIOR CHINESE OFFICIAL SAID HERE TODAY.

STATE COUNCILOR LI TIEYING, SPEAKING AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE, SAID THE RELATED PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS OF THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN DOING THEIR WORK ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE.

THE CONGRESS, THE LARGEST EVER IN CHINA, ATTENDED BY OVER 700 REPRESENTATIVES FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS, IS EXPECTED TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE.

THE STATE COUNCILOR SAID THAT TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE (TCM) IS A MAJOR MEANS OF ILLNESS TREATMENT IN THE COUNTRY.

HE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IS NEARLY 70 YEARS AND THE GOAL OF "HEALTH FOR ALL BY THE YEAR 2000" CAN NOT BE REALIZED WITHOUT TCM.

LI STRESSED THAT EQUAL EMPHASIS ON TCM AND WESTERN MEDICINE HAS BEEN A BASIC POLICY OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.

THE FIVE-DAY CONGRESS WAS CO-SPONSORED BY THE CHINA STATE ADMINISTRATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO).

CHINESE VICE PRESIDENT WANG ZHEN WAS PRESENT AT TODAY'S OPENING CEREMONY.

ACCORDING TO LI, TCM IS ON THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT'S AGENDA OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS. PREFERENTIAL POLICIES HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN TERMS OF TAX, FOUNDATIONS AND LOANS CONCERNING

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TCM PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT.

CHINA OWNS 32 COLLEGES OF TCM AND 170 TCM RESEARCH INSTITUTES. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF BEDS IN TCM HOSPITALS AND CLINICS ACROSS THE COUNTRY AMOUNTS TO NEARLY 200,000.

TCM ADVANCES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN CURING MALIGNANT TUMORS, IMMUNE SYSTEM DISEASES, OSTEOMYELITIS, BURNS AND OTHER DISEASES, AND IN ALLEVIATING THE PAINS OF AIDS.

THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF TCM PRODUCED IN CHINA REACHED NEARLY 20,000 TONS IN 1990. IT HAS BEEN EXPORTED TO 105 COUNTRIES AND REGIONS.

LI SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS, CHINA'S CONTACTS WITH THE WORLD IN THE FIELD OF QIGONG (DEEP BREATHING EXERCISE), BONESETTING, ACUPUNCTURE, MOXIBUSTION, AND TCM RESEARCH HAVE GREATLY EXPANDED.

CHINA HOPES TO CONTINUE GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL CONTACTS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN THE RESEARCH AND APPLICATION OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE, STATE COUNCILOR LI SAID.

DURING THE CONGRESS, ROUND-TABLE TALKS AMONG PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS FROM OVER 20 COUNTRIES WILL BE HELD, ALONG WITH ACADEMIC DISCUSSIONS AND EXHIBITIONS OF MEDICINES AND INSTRUMENTS.

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